Wayne State University School of Medicine sent 249 new physicians into the world June 6. Held this year at Detroit’s Fox Theatre, the ceremonies marked the first commencement for Dean Robert M. Mentzer, Jr.

“Now, it is your charge to use the tools of your education to continue your quest for knowledge, and to balance your confidence as a physician with your humility as a human being,” Dr. Mentzer said. “Rely upon your intellect and respect for the scientific method to appropriately use advanced technology; rely upon your compassion and human experience to care for your patients in the same manner you would want your loved ones to be cared for.”

Such sound advice was echoed by keynote speaker, Richard S. Stack, M.D., a leading expert on cardiovascular disease and president of Synecor, a business incubator designed to bring new medical devices to the market. Dr. Stack, a Wayne State University School of Medicine alumnus of the class of 1976, is a professor emeritus of medicine in cardiology at Duke University, in Durham, N.C. He holds 24 U.S. patents and has another 31 pending. A major thrust of Dr. Stack’s work has been the design of new devices for the treatment of peripheral vascular disease, particularly cerebrovascular disease.

Executive Vice Dean Robert R. Frank, M.D., was honored with a Distinguished Service Award for his three decades of continuous service to the WSU School of Medicine, including the past year as interim dean. “Dr. Frank’s steady guidance was integral to maintaining and enhancing the institution’s role as a leader in leading-edge medical education, research and patient care,” his citation read.
Dean Mentzer presents “Vision 2011” for WSU School of Medicine

Dean Robert M. Mentzer, Jr., M.D., has presented a vision for the WSU School of Medicine that culminates in 2011 with a revitalized and expanded faculty, a new focus on interdisciplinary research, a groundbreaking for a state-of-the-art research building, and successful competition for a prestigious National Institutes of Health Clinical-Translational Science Award.

“We have a lot of strengths here,” Dr. Mentzer said. “Yes, we have challenges, too, but we have to ask, ‘Where are the opportunities?’”

At a special forum sponsored by the Faculty Senate, Dr. Mentzer discussed plans to lead the School of Medicine into a new era as a premier, research-intensive institution for academic medicine. Just after arriving on campus in March, Dr. Mentzer initiated an application for a $180,000 planning grant to help the School of Medicine prepare itself to compete for a National Institutes of Health Clinical Translational Science Award. NIH launched the CTSA program to encourage the development of novel approaches to clinical and translational research to allow new medical treatments to be developed and delivered more quickly and efficiently to patients.

THE DEAN ENVISIONS THE SCHOOL DEVELOPING AFFILIATIONS WITH MULTIPLE HEALTH-CARE PARTNERS IN THE FUTURE AND ALSO EVALUATING THE CURRENT MODEL FOR THE WSU GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM.

ROBERT M. MENTZER, JR., M.D.
DEAN, SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
SENIOR ADVISOR TO THE PRESIDENT FOR MEDICAL AFFAIRS

Dean Mentzer is preparing the school to compete for a National Institutes of Health Clinical Translational Science Award.

With or without the planning grant, we’re going to be moving ahead,” the dean said, adding that he aims to have the school ready to submit a competitive application for a CTSA within three to five years.

This summer, the early stages of planning for a formal strategic plan for the School of Medicine will begin, Dean Mentzer said. The first steps will include meeting with various key constituencies and consulting with other medical schools that have successfully implemented strategic plans. By fall, the dean plans to have consultants in place to launch a full-scale strategic planning process.

Through a combination of attrition and new positions, Dean Mentzer expects to hire 70 new research-intensive faculty positions during the next five years. This initiative, along with plans to revamp faculty development programs and promotion and tenure guidelines, is aimed at reinvigorating the school’s faculty.

Dr. Mentzer’s vision calls for completing fundraising for the Richard J. Mazurek, M.D., Medical Education Commons as well as working toward the construction of a new research building. A request for proposals for the design of a research building went out May 9; although groundbreaking will not occur until around 2011, a design is expected by fall.

“The message here is that action has started regarding this critically needed research facility on this campus,” Dean Mentzer said.

On the clinical front, Dean Mentzer said he would be meeting with faculty physicians to discuss the creation of a single, subspecialty physician group under the auspices of the WSU Physician Group.

He envisions the school developing affiliations with multiple health-care partners in the future and also evaluating the current model for the WSU graduate medical education program. Dr. Mentzer also discussed his plans to establish an ambulatory care environment that fosters the best in quality patient care, student education and translational research.

“This also positions us with respect to the CTSA,” he said of developing an ambulatory care model. “Not only is it the bench work to the bedside in the hospital, but it’s the translation of that work out to the community where it becomes the standard of care.

“That’s the spectrum, that’s the challenge, that’s the gauntlet that the NIH has set forth for those who want to be on the players’ side.”
Wayne State University (WSU) and Oakwood Healthcare, Inc. signed an affiliation agreement to create an academic and clinical care partnership of national renown. It will encompass new programs in graduate medical education (GME), research and clinical care.

The agreement, which includes the School of Medicine’s affiliated faculty physicians, the Wayne State University Physician Group, creates a long-term partnership between both institutions that will result over time in the creation of programs that support enhanced, medical education, research and clinical care.

“This affiliation provides an opportunity for us to expand our educational commitment to our students,” said Wayne State University President Irvin D. Reid. “We are first and foremost an educational institution, and this partnership will help us to broaden training opportunities for the medical professionals of tomorrow. It also will enhance our ability to conduct research that will assist in bringing the benefits of nationally significant academic medicine to the clinical needs of the community. Our partnership strengthens the delivery of education, research and patient care which are critical to the future of health care in our region and beyond.’’

The community will benefit from the enhanced array of specialized medical and surgical services provided at OHI hospitals, its network of physicians and outpatient facilities. “Both of our institutions have a long history of working with one another to create strong academic partnerships that have improved the quality of health care in southeast Michigan,” said Gerald Fitzgerald, president and CEO of OHI. “With this new collaborative effort, our organizations will build the future of health care in this community by creating new models for care delivery, shared resources and joint ventures. The result of these efforts will be a teaching, research and clinical-care model of national renown that will attract and retain the best and brightest clinical talent to provide our patients and the various communities we serve with the highest level of quality care.”

In addition, OHI and its patient base will bring new depth to WSU’s research programs, and the affiliation will enable WSU to expand the scope of clinical translational and community-based research that is directly relevant to the care of southeast Michigan’s diverse populations, including African Americans, Arab Americans and Hispanic Americans.

The affiliation will be administered by a joint operating committee that will be co-chaired by Robert M. Mentzer, Jr., M.D., dean of the WSU School of Medicine, and Michael A. Geheb, M.D., division president, Oakwood Hospital and Medical Center and Oakwood Heritage Hospital. Each institution will appoint three additional members to the committee.

“Together we will identify and develop programs that have the potential to achieve national prominence,” said Mentzer. “Joint programs will be framed by education and research, with a goal of improving clinical outcomes.”

“Through our partnership, we will create new clinical care, teaching and research opportunities that will build upon the already exceptional clinical quality of our medical staff,” said Dr. Geheb, a WSU School of Medicine graduate.

The agreement is non-exclusive. Oakwood can accept students from other universities into its clinical programs and affiliate with other universities. WSU has the right to enter into affiliation agreements with other health care providers or medical centers.

The joint venture is the first step in the clinical care scope of the affiliation agreement created to support programs that will enhance medical education, research and clinical care.

“Wayne State University is extremely supportive of WSUPG’s venture with Oakwood,” said Robert M. Mentzer, Jr., M.D., dean of the WSU School of Medicine and senior advisor to the president for medical affairs. “This initiative will build upon our physicians’ strong commitment to their primary service base in Detroit and reach out to the broad community with which the University is engaged.”

Through this collaboration, OHS/UPG Ventures will explore opportunities to extend services beyond its members’ established service areas. Its first undertaking of what is planned to be a comprehensive collaboration to enrich the health status of the broad community is creating an ambulatory care facility in Troy, Michigan.

While the scope of services to be provided at the 176,000 square foot facility (located on Stephenson Highway at Maple) has yet to be finalized, patient-centered services such as imaging and outpatient procedures are being considered. The business plan will be completed in the fall of this year, with the facility opening in the spring of 2008.

“This joint venture helps facilitate Oakwood’s growth and regional expansion initiatives,” said Joe Diederich, chief operating officer of OHI. “Oakwood and our private practice physicians specialize in programs such as cardiology, orthopedics, cancer care and women’s health – all of which can benefit patients from across the region.”

Wayne State University physicians practice in more than 100 sites in the tri-county area, many of which will be consolidated in the planned Troy facility, offering comprehensive care and diagnostic services to their patients at a single location.

“Through OHS/UPG Ventures to provide the highest quality and value for the health care dollar through innovation,” said Mentzer, who also serves as chairman of the WSUPG Board of Directors. “It’s all about our patients. We expect OHS/UPG Ventures to create programs that will engage our faculty physicians with their community peers, and attract and retain outstanding physicians to serve patients in all of our communities.”

Formation of OHS/UPG Ventures has been approved by Oakwood’s Finance Committee, as well as by the WSUPG Board of Directors. Additional approvals for the Troy project will be slated for this fall, following completion of the comprehensive business plan.

“Through our partnership, we will create new clinical care, teaching and research opportunities that will build upon the already exceptional clinical quality of our medical staff.”

– Dr. Michael Geheb, division president, Oakwood Hospital and Medical Center and Oakwood Heritage Hospital
**Preterm infants benefit from massage therapy**

Adults enjoy massage therapy to drown out the stresses of the day. It stands to reason that infants in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) may benefit from the same relaxation tool. Preterm infants at Hutzel Women’s Hospital will find respite from the loud noises, bright lights, blood drawing, suctioning and intubation they endure in their early days. They will take comfort in the personal touch of trained massage therapists who hope to reduce stress, improve immunity and foster development in the children.

Jocelyn Ang, M.D., assistant professor of pediatrics, has been awarded a three-year $664,000 grant from the National Institute of Health's National Center for Complementary & Alternative Medicine to study “Effects of Massage Therapy on Immune System of Preterm Infants.”

Stress has a negative effect on the human immune system and on natural killer (NK) cells that typically fight against tumor or virus-infected cells. Reducing stress through psychological interventions like massage and relaxation are predicted to reduce stress, improve cellular immunity and enhance NK cell number and function. In preliminary studies, massage therapy has been associated with weight gain, shorter hospital stay and improvement in mental and motor development in the infants.

“Massage therapy has increased the number and function of NK cells in adults with HIV infection. This leads us to investigate its effect on the immune system of children, particularly premature infants, who are frequently left in isolates with minimal human touch and interaction,” Dr. Ang said.

Nearly 100 stable premature infants will be randomized to either the massage therapy group or the placebo group. Massage will be administered by infant massage certified NICU nurses to the study group for 45 minutes a day, five days a week for four weeks. Physicians, nurses and parents will be blinded to the group assignment of each child. Assessment of immune system, measurement of stress levels as well as daily weights, amount of feeding, number of infections, and days in the hospital will be recorded and analyzed between the two groups.

“Our innovative study will be the largest study in this area. Data from this project could also impact future explorations on potential effects of massage therapy on the immune responses to childhood vaccinations and susceptibility to bacterial and viral infections,” Dr. Ang said.

The ancient art of massage is technically described as manipulation of soft tissue by trained therapists for therapeutic purposes. Empirical evidence is beginning to mount, showing massage to be scientifically acceptable as a medical remedy for a variety of problems including pain, arthritis and fatigue. Dr. Ang says more clinical trials are needed to show the physiological effects and duration of touch therapy.

**Baby’s first stool may provide clues to fetal alcohol exposure**

Fetal alcohol exposure is usually determined through self-reported maternal consumption, an often unreliable measure that can lead to detrimental delays in identifying and treating children who are affected by fetal-alcohol syndrome. But Wayne State University School of Medicine researchers have found that the presence of certain fatty acid ethyl esters (FAEEs) in a baby’s first stool may provide a dependable biomarker of fetal alcohol exposure.

Results are published in the July 2006 issue of Alcoholism: Clinical & Experimental Research.

“There are only a few biomarkers that indicate if an infant has been exposed to alcohol during pregnancy, and most of them are not strictly associated with alcohol use,” said Enrique Ostrea, Jr., M.D., professor of pediatrics at Wayne State University. “In this study, we have found a direct association between the presence of certain FAEEs and alcohol use.” Dr. Ostrea is also the corresponding author for the study.

When people drink alcohol, it combines with certain fats in the body known as fatty acids, and FAEEs are formed. These “markers” are either deposited in tissues or, in the case of a growing fetus, in fetal urine or meconium, a baby’s first stool.

“People characteristically underreport the amount of alcohol they drink,” said Michael Laposata, director of clinical laboratories at the Massachusetts General Hospital and professor of pathology at Harvard Medical School. “One can measure blood alcohol but it disappears from the blood relatively quickly after drinking stops, so only very recent intake can be documented. FAEEs are ‘long-term markers’ of alcohol intake because they stay much longer in blood than alcohol itself and, in this case, accumulate in meconium.”

For this study, researchers examined 124 mother/infant pairs. Based on self reports, 93 of the mothers had consumed alcohol during pregnancy, and 31 had not. FAEEs were analyzed in the infants’ meconium by a highly sensitive and specific method called positive chemical ionization gas chromatography/mass spectrometry. Results were correlated to maternal alcohol use during pregnancy.

The presence of FAEE ethyl linoleate in meconium is highly indicative of fetal exposure to alcohol during pregnancy, Dr. Ostrea said. The incidence of ethyl linoleate in meconium was found to be significantly higher in the alcohol-exposed group when compared to the control group. There was also a significant association between alcohol exposure and group concentrations of ethyl linoleate. Furthermore, the highest ethyl-linoleate concentration was only found in the alcohol-exposed infants.

Dr. Ostrea said the results also suggest that FAEEs ethyl arachidonate and docosahexaenoate may have potential as biomarkers of alcohol effects on the developing fetal brain.

“This is an important report,” said Laposata. “The measurements of the FAEEs are exceedingly well done. However, the test is only able to identify about one quarter of the mothers who ingest alcohol during pregnancy.”

He suggested that testing expectant mothers for alcohol intake prior to delivery would have more merit than testing meconium after birth because an objective identification of alcohol intake during pregnancy could lead to intervention, possible cessation of drinking and a better outcome for the fetus. “We have an obvious need to check mothers during pregnancy before damage to the fetus is done,” he said.

Until that transpires, Dr. Ostrea said, “Our manuscript is supportive of the validity of using FAEEs as biomarkers of prenatal alcohol exposure. This would allow early identification and treatment for children born with fetal alcohol effects who might otherwise not be recognized, particularly if the mother does not admit to drinking.”

Alcoholism: Clinical & Experimental Research is the official journal of the Research Society on Alcoholism and the International Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism. Co-authors of the paper, “Fatty acid ethyl esters in meconium: Are they biomarkers of fetal alcohol exposure and effect?”, were: Joel D. Hernandez, Dawn M. Bielawski, Jack M. Kan, Gregorio M. Leonardo, Michelle Buda Abeła, Michael W. Church, John H. Hannigan, Robert J. Sokol, James J. Janisse and Joel W. Ager. The study was funded by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.
Doctor-patient relationships can affect quality of care

Most experts agree that one of the best solutions to improve health care experiences for minorities is to increase minority physicians and health care providers. Although there’s no hard evidence that minority patients receive better care from minority doctors, minority patients are more trusting and comfortable in the company of doctors from their own ethnic group. Until the physician supply catches up to demand, Louis Penner, Ph.D., is one of only a few researchers to examine how race and ethnicity directly affect attitudes in doctors and patients and how those attitudes affect health outcomes.

Dr. Penner is a WSU professor in the departments of internal medicine and family medicine. He is also a senior research scientist in communication and behavioral oncology at the Karmanos Cancer Institute. He is interested in improving the quality of health care received by minority group patients.

A National Institute of Child Health and Human Development grant called "Using Doctor-Patient Teams to Reduce Health Disparities," will allow Dr. Penner to serve as principal investigator and test interventions to reduce the negative effects of preexisting physician and patient attitudes. He hopes to try reducing intergroup bias, reducing perceived social distance and improving communication in doctor-patient teams.

"In general, patients are more satisfied with their physicians and medical decision-making processes if they feel part of the process and there is a climate of respect," Dr. Penner said. "By improving medical interactions involving minority group members, we hope to improve communication, satisfaction, outcomes, and eliminate traditional disparities that accompany minority patients."

Dr. Penner earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Miami University in Ohio and his doctorate in social psychology from Michigan State University. In 1969, he joined the University of South Florida where he stayed for 34 years, moving through the ranks and becoming professor and chair of psychology. In 2003, he joined WSU Department of Family Medicine and the Karmanos Cancer Institute, where he is focusing his work on ways to improve patient care and physician-patient communication.

Osteopontin levels screen for cancer in asbestos-exposed populations

For the unlucky few who develop mesothelioma, a form of cancer that is associated with asbestos carcinogens, the prognosis is not good; survival after diagnosis is generally 12 months or less. With earlier detection, previously undetected tumors could be treated, adding five or more years to one’s life.

A new biomarker, osteopontin, has been identified to successfully screen for and diagnose pleural mesothelioma before symptoms are present. Overexpression of the glycoprotein osteopontin is correlated with tumor invasion, progression and metastases, and can therefore distinguish whether or not an asbestos-exposed person has cancer.

This biomarker was reported in the New England Journal of Medicine (Oct. 13, 2005) by researchers from Wayne State University, the Karmanos Cancer Institute and the John D. Dingell VA Medical Center. Study co-author Anil Wali, Ph.D., assistant professor of surgery and pathology, said, "There are millions of workers exposed to hazardous asbestos every year, but until now, there was no economically feasible or validated method to screen them for cancer. This marker and other biomarkers can predict and diagnose the development of mesothelioma in its early stages."

In the study of 69 asbestos-exposed subjects, osteopontin levels reflected the duration of occupational exposure and the extent of radiographic abnormalities. Those with longer histories of exposure had higher serum levels. Researchers said osteopontin was present in the pleural mesothelioma before symptoms are present. Overexpression of the glycoprotein osteopontin is correlated with tumor invasion, progression and metastases, and can therefore distinguish whether or not an asbestos-exposed person has cancer.

"Too many patients, overwhelmed with predictions of their imminent demise, have given up the fight without investigating their options. Too much money has been spent on lobbying and litigation and not enough invested in finding solutions to the underlying problem," Dr. Harbut said. An advocate for patients, and frequent visitor to Congress to urge more stringent regulation of hazardous materials, Dr. Harbut is an assistant professor of internal medicine at WSU and has been called a toxic warrior. He is co-director of the Karmanos National Center for Vermiculite and Asbestos-Related Cancers and the Center for Occupational and Environmental Medicine with Dr. John Buckdeschel. He is co-director of the Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation and former chairman of the occupational and environmental medicine section of the American College of Chest Physicians.

"Most people who develop mesothelioma have worked on jobs where they inhaled asbestos particles, or have been exposed to asbestos dust and fibre in other ways, such as by washing the clothes of a family member who worked with asbestos, or by home renovation using asbestos cement products," Dr. Harbut said. "This new finding may give them a chance at survival."

Co-authors on the study also include: Harvey Pass, M.D., Dan Lott, Fulvio Lonardo, M.D., Zhandong Liu, Ph.D., Naimel Tang, Ph.D., Michele Carbone, M.D., Ph.D., and Craig Webb, Ph.D., to read the full report online, visit the New England Journal of Medicine at: http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/abstract/353/15/1564.
More to asthma than the old inhaler, says Dr. Baptist

Since albuterol has become the most widely used drug for chronic asthma, some physicians think there’s no more to learn about asthma management options. But Alan Baptist, M.D., says doctors need to be properly apprised of the recent advances regarding scheduled usage of albuterol and the controversial black-box warnings on medications such as Advair, that contain salmeterol.

Dr. Baptist is the newly recruited director of the allergy/asthma program housed in the internal medicine department. His research focuses on reducing hospitalizations for severe asthmatics and he is afraid the medical community might grow complacent with certain medications that gain quick, widespread, sometimes blind acceptance.

“The latest studies show that albuterol, a short-acting beta-2 agonist, is most useful on an as-needed basis, not a scheduled routine, for people with mild asthma,” he said. This result is sometimes surprising to doctors who hospitalize patients and prescribe regular breathing treatments; but upon release from the hospital, the medication is best used as-needed, according to the New England Journal of Medicine study on the matter.

For people with moderate-to-severe persistent asthma, the cocktail changes. They may require a long-acting, beta2 adrenoceptor bronchodilator (LABA), primarily formoterol or salmeterol, sold as Advair in the U.S. or Symbicort in the U.K. The long-acting LABA needs to be accompanied by an inhaled steroid for maximum asthma relief, according to the GOAL and FACET trials published in the New England Journal of Medicine in the late ’90s. The combined therapy improves symptoms and lung function without lessening control of asthma, Dr. Baptist said. The combination also fights the possible B2 receptor downregulation, which could induce tolerance to the bronchodilating effects of short-term inhalers like albuterol. “Combination therapy provides maximum enhanced benefits, and is appropriate for some but not all asthmatics,” Dr. Baptist said.

“We want to make sure we are using the available medications correctly and for maximum benefit,” Dr. Baptist said. That’s why he’s concerned about the bold, black-box warnings on medications containing salmeterol.

“We don’t want patients to be unnecessarily scared away from effective medications like Advair, or to stop taking their asthma medicines without talking to their physician first. Advair is definitely not appropriate for all patients, but for those with severe asthma it can be a very effective option. It should only be used in patients for whom inhaled corticosteroids are not effective alone” he said.

The FDA’s black box warning was initiated after the SMART study – comparing people with usual asthma therapy vs. usual therapy plus salmeterol – showed more complicating asthma symptoms associated with salmeterol, he explained. The problem with the study was this: there were no guidelines about usage or avoidance of other medications; all patients were not on an inhaled corticosteroid; and most importantly, no regular physician care was necessitated during the 28-week-study.

“These SMART study subjects were not under the supervision of a doctor providing comprehensive asthma management. They were not recruited through referring physicians who diagnosed them with uncontrolled asthma. They were brought in through telemarketing, so the study subjects tended to be severe asthmatics who were not being treated properly in the first place. They were using the wrong medications for their particular asthma, if at all, and in general, they weren’t getting professional medical care,” Dr. Baptist said.

Currently pursuing a master’s of public health degree from WSU, Dr. Baptist understands the nuances of confounding factors in studies. He and his colleague, Dr. Ayman Soubani, are investigating the risks of salmeterol to African-American asthma patients. Their study looks at physiologic, genetic, social and behavioral factors, collectively.

“Comprehensive asthma management is the key,” Dr. Baptist said. “We want to make sure we are using the available medications correctly and for maximum benefit,” Dr. Baptist said. That’s why he’s concerned about the bold, black-box warnings on medications containing salmeterol.

“Allergy shots effective for both allergies and asthma

Allergies aren’t the only thing treated with allergy shots. New research shows that allergy immunotherapy can prevent and treat asthma, too. Whether a person wheezes from hay fever or asthma, these shots may provide an effective combat tool.

‘Allergy immunotherapy is not a medication. It is a more ‘natural’ form of treatment, because it takes the substance to which a patient is allergic, dilutes it with a saline buffer, and gives the patient slowly increasing doses of the extract over time,” Dr. Baptist said. “It attempts to retrain the immune system so that the person is now able to tolerate pollens (trees, grass and weeds), molds, animals, and dust mites, which they were previously having allergy symptoms to. Additionally, it may prevent the acquisition of new allergic sensitivities and may prevent the development of asthma.”

Allergy shots are ideal for patients whose symptoms are not controlled on medications, who are experiencing undesired side effects of the medications, or who want to avoid long-term use and dependence on medications. To find out if allergy shots are right for you, contact Dr. Baptist in the allergy/asthma clinic in the University Health Center at (313) 745-4525.
Amigos Médicos provides voluntary care to underserved Hispanic community

“Gozar de buena salud,” says the medical student to the Hispanic patient at Covenant Community Care, a low cost clinic for the working poor in southwest Detroit. Translated to “enjoy good health,” this reflects the core mission of Amigos Médicos, a group of WSU medical students who integrate education and volunteering to understand and meet the health and wellness needs of the medically underserved Hispanic community.

Amigos Médicos, and its president, Lesley Lawrenson, were honored by Wayne State University with a Service to Detroit Award at the Campus Life Leadership Awards banquet. Amigos Médicos members attended 20 hours of language sessions led by clinic manager Dr. Letty Guerrero. They learned specific vocabulary, interviewing techniques, and sponsored a seminar series on culturally competent care. They translate and assist for Dr. Kathy Kleinert and Dr. Lydia Best at Covenant Community Care. Together, they provide primary health care for a community of nearly 15,000 residents who have no medical insurance in the surrounding neighborhoods.

When asked about her motivations for founding Amigos Médicos, Lawrenson replied, “Many Hispanics face a triple barrier to healthcare: language, finances, and culture. Amigos Médicos offers a solution by teaching medical Spanish to future physicians while instilling the spirit of volunteerism.”

Additionally, some members fundraised to spend their Winter break in at Universidad Internacional’s medical Spanish immersion program, while others traveled to Volunteers in Medicine, South Carolina, and worked under Wayne State Alumni Dr. Torres. Service from the WSU medical students is “justo lo que se necesitaba,” (just what the doctor ordered), Lawrenson said.

“MANY HISPANICS FACE A TRIPLE BARRIER TO HEALTHCARE: LANGUAGE, FINANCES, AND CULTURE. AMIGOS MÉDICOS OFFERS A SOLUTION BY TEACHING MEDICAL SPANISH TO FUTURE PHYSICIANS WHILE INSTILLING THE SPIRIT OF VOLUNTEERISM.”

– LESLEY LAWRENSON, PRESIDENT, AMIGOS MÉDICOS

Sakiko Suzuki practices an ophthalmic exam on Dr. Yoo. Dr. Guerrero teaches WSU students at Covenant Community Clinic.
Class of 2006 set to serve

Congratulations to the class of 2006 who will pursue residency training at the following institutions, locally and across the country.

Rima A. Abbas
Oakwood Hospital and Medical Center
Dearborn, Michigan
Family Medicine

Sajeyda N. Abbas
Henry Ford Health System
Detroit, Michigan
Emergency Medicine

Michael G. Abesamis
UPMC Medical Education Program
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Emergency Medicine

Amy M. Abouzied
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center
Hanover, New Hampshire
Obstetrics – Gynecology

Matthew J. Abraham
Bassett Health Care
Cooperstown, New York
Medicine-Preliminary

Nicholas J. Abram
Grand Rapids Medical Education
Grand Rapids, Michigan
Emergency Medicine

Onyinyechi B. Agbara
Boston University Medical Center
Boston, Massachusetts
Medicine – Preliminary (1)

Ayshah A. Aman
St. John Hospital and Medical Center
Detroit, Michigan
Internal Medicine

Matthew R. Amans
St. Vincent's Hospital
New York, New York
Radiology – Diagnostic (2)

Robert T. Arnold
Henry Ford Health System
Detroit, Michigan
Radiology – Diagnostic

Kirin Arora
University of Chicago Hospital
Chicago, Illinois
Medicine – Preliminary (1)

Rachna Arora
University of Illinois College of Medicine/UHC
Chicago, Illinois
Internal Medicine

Ramsey N. Asmar
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan
Internal Medicine

Rashmi V. Baragi
University of Illinois College of Medicine/UHC
Chicago, Illinois
Internal Medicine

Dusan Barisic
Henry Ford Health System
Detroit, Michigan
Emergency Medicine

Shira Bassly
Einstein/Montefiore Medical Center
Bronx, New York
Pediatrics

David M. Bayley
Michigan State University
Kalamazoo, Michigan
Family Medicine

Wassim M. Bazzi
University of California San Diego Medical Center
San Diego, California
Surgery – Preliminary

Mark A. Bergin
McGaw Medical Center – Northwestern University
Chicago, Illinois
Surgery – Preliminary

Suzan M. Beydoun
Oakwood Hospital and Medical Center
Dearborn, Michigan
Family Medicine

Patrick J. Bisell
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan
Anesthesiology

Tanya M. Boldenow
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan
Medicine – Pediatrics

David A. Bozam
Grand Rapids Medical Education
Grand Rapids, Michigan
Internal Medicine

Tracy D. Brady
Muson Medical Center
Towner City, Michigan
Family Medicine

Ryan P. Bredeweg
Grand Rapids Medical Education
Grand Rapids, Michigan
Radiology – Diagnostic (1)

John J. Briles
Henry Ford Health System
Detroit, Michigan
Psychiatry

Ruzica Brstina
William Beaumont Hospital
Royal Oak, Michigan
Family Medicine

Juanita S. Bryant
Harbor – UCLA Medical Center
Torrance, California
University of California
San Francisco, California
Ophthalmology (2)

Timothy J. Buckley
University of Kansas School of Medicine
Kansas City, Kansas
Psychiatry

Susan Buratto
University of Chicago Hospital
Chicago, Illinois
Psychiatry

Barika M. Butler
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan
Psychiatry

Cara M. Butler
Advocate Lutheran General Hospital
Park Ridge, Illinois
Obstetrics – Gynecology

Tomika M. Roberts Butler
Wayne State University/Detroit Medical Center
Detroit, Michigan
Transitional

Joseph M. Caldwell
Akron General Medical Center
Akron, Ohio
Orthopaedic Surgery

Anna D. Castiglione-Richmond
University of Texas Medical School
Houston, Texas
Pathology

Anthony J. Cavalieri
The University Hospital
Cincinnati, Ohio
Psychiatry

Anjan K. Chakravarthi
University of Michigan Hospitals
Ann Arbor, Michigan
Internal Medicine

Meenaashki Chaku
Henry Ford Health System
Detroit, Michigan
Wayne State University/Detroit Medical Center
Detroit, Michigan
Ophthalmology (2)

Srikshina Chandran
Henry Ford Health System
Detroit, Michigan
Internal Medicine

Amy D. Chaperson
Medical College of Wisconsin Affiliated Hospitals
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Internal Medicine

Angela M. Chmielewski
William Beaumont Hospital
Royal Oak, Michigan
Internal Medicine

Hong Y. Chong
Wayne State University/Detroit Medical Center
Detroit, Michigan
Emergency Medicine

Chih J. Chuang
Wayne State University/Detroit Medical Center
Detroit, Michigan
Medicine – Pediatrics

Brendan R. Conboy
William Beaumont Hospital
Royal Oak, Michigan
Obstetrics – Gynecology

Ginger I. Connor
William Beaumont Hospital
Royal Oak, Michigan
Obstetrics – Gynecology

Michael D. Connor
Henry Ford Health Systems
Detroit, Michigan
Emergency Medicine

Jonathan D. Copeland
William Beaumont Hospital
Royal Oak, Michigan
Family Medicine

Laura J. Crandall
Providence Hospital
Southfield, Michigan
Family Medicine

Tywanda R. Crawford-Johnson
Wayne State University/Detroit Medical Center
Detroit, Michigan
Family Medicine

Casey J. Cross
Grand Rapids Medical Education
Grand Rapids, Michigan
Transitional

William J. Cullen
Postponing post-graduate training

Lisa M. Cunningham
William Beaumont Hospital
Royal Oak, Michigan
General Surgery

Archana C. Desai
Resurrection Medical Center
Chicago, Illinois
Emergency Medicine

Classmates Rima Abbas and Susan Beydoun will study family medicine at Oakwood.
Alexander Stoffan and Herman-Simon Kado follow the procession of graduates at commencement.

Elycia G. James  
Medical University of Ohio  
Toledo, Ohio  
Neurology - Preliminary (1)  
Neurology (2)

Tamar V. Jeffery  
Wayne State University/Detroit Medical Center  
Detroit, Michigan  
Emergency Medicine

Kristan G. Jenkins-Mosure  
St. John Hospital and Medical Center  
Detroit, Michigan  
Radiology - Diagnostic (2)

Jamie L. Johnson  
St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center  
Toledo, Ohio  
Emergency Medicine

Dawn M. Jones  
Wayne State University/Detroit Medical Center  
Detroit, Michigan  
Surgery - Preliminary

Herman-Simon K. Kado  
University of Illinois College of Medicine/SHP  
Chicago, Illinois  
Internal Medicine

Rachel C. Kado  
Cleveland Clinic Foundation  
Cleveland, Ohio  
Pediatrics

Aaron P. Kamer  
St. John Hospital and Medical Center  
Dearborn, Michigan  
Radiology - Diagnostic (2)

Jeffrey J. Kane  
Oakwood Hospital and Medical Center  
Deerfield, Michigan  
Internal Medicine

Erick M. Kawakita  
Akron General Medical Center  
Akron, Ohio  
Orthopaedic Surgery

Christian G. Khairallah  
Henry Ford Health System  
Detroit, Michigan  
Transitional (1)  
Ophthalmology (2)
Ifeoma Nwangwu, Paul Kleinow and Nicole Rothenberg bask in the moment.

Martin C. Price  
Henry Ford Health System  
Radiology – Diagnostic

Joy O. Rabinowitz  
Wayne State University/Detroit Medical Center  
Pediatrics

Henry K. Rance  
University of Arizona Affiliated Hospitals  
Tucson, Arizona  
Pediatrics

Mehit Rastogi  
University of Michigan Hospitals  
Ann Arbor, Michigan  
Anesthesiology

Anthony B. Ratnaparaksha  
Harbor – UCLA Medical Center  
Los Angeles, California  
Emergency Medicine

Naveen G. Reddy  
Medical College of Wisconsin Affiliated Hospitals  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
Internal Medicine

Tonie K. Reinske  
Hurley Medical Center  
Flint, Michigan  
Wayne State University/Detroit Medical Center  
Detro, Michigan  
Radiology – Diagnostic (2)

David M. Richards  
University of Texas Medical School  
Houston, Texas  
Internal Medicine

Sarah J. Richardson  
Wayne State University/Detroit Medical Center  
Detro, Michigan  
Pediatrics

Amy R. Riley  
Wayne State University/Detroit Medical Center  
Detro, Michigan  
General Surgery

Adam J. Riutta  
Indiana University School of Medicine  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
Emergency Medicine

Krisha J. Opfermann  
University of Arizona Affiliated Hospitals  
Tucson, Arizona  
Wayne State University/Detroit Medical Center  
Detro, Michigan  
Medicine – Preliminary (1)  
Radiation Oncology (2)

Scott R. Ottolini  
Wayne State University/Detroit Medical Center  
Detro, Michigan  
Emergency Medicine

Roshan B. Pai  
William Beaumont Hospital  
Royal Oak, Michigan  
Radiology – Diagnostic

John S. Papaconstantinou  
McLaren Regional Medical Center  
Flint, Michigan  
Orthopaedic Surgery

Nikhil N. Parekh  
Barnes Good Samaritan Medical Center  
Phoenix, Arizona  
Psychiatry

Seth C. Perkins  
Oakwood Hospital and Medical Center  
Cleveland, Ohio  
Family Medicine

Judy A. Peters  
Ventura County Medical Center  
Ventura, California  
Family Medicine

Matthew J. Petersen  
St. John Hospital and Medical Center  
Detro, Michigan  
Indiana University School of Medicine  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
Radiology – Diagnostic (2)  
Transitional

Joseph D. Peterson  
Wayne State University/Detroit Medical Center  
Detro, Michigan  
Transitional

Cherie R. Phillips  
Howard University Hospital  
Washington, District of Columbia  
General Surgery

Aaron D. Potts  
Cleveland Clinic Foundation  
Cleveland, Ohio  
Orthopaedic Surgery

Anuj Prasher  
Medical University of Ohio  
Toledo, Ohio  
Orthopaedic Surgery
Headed for residencies across the Midwest are: Sandeep Ghai, Mohit Rastogi, Chih Chuang and Naveen Reddy.
James Lee awarded for adding more to his medical education

Second-year student and class president James Lee was inspired by a speaker at a meeting of the American Medical Student Association and he is making that message the cornerstone of his medical career. The physician told students, “If one is standing at the bank of a river, and bodies start floating by, you don’t just stand there and fish them out one by one. You have to go upstream and see why there are so many people going by in the first place.”

Going upstream is a message that I have taken to heart, and while the knowledge that I am receiving from my professors will make me into a competent physician, what will be needed in the future are people who know what it takes to fix the problem at its source, not just people to clean up the mess,” Lee said.

That attitude has prompted Lee to become engaged in voluntary community service through free health care screenings, health education for school children, national health care advocacy, the World Health Student Organization and public health improvement projects. These efforts earned him an Outstanding Graduate/Professional Student Award at the Wayne State University 2005-2006 Campus Life Leadership Awards. After undergraduate studies at Michigan State University and the University of Michigan, Lee was eager for the more urban setting at Wayne State. “I am just starting to scratch the surface of Detroit and the diversity of people who live and work here, and the deeper I dig, the more confident I feel that I will be able to do my part to help fix a broken health care system,” he said.

Lee has participated in health screenings for the Hmong community and the Chinese Community Center. “I have seen the effects of the lack of health insurance - both the toll on the population who avoid seeing physicians because they can’t afford it, and the deleterious effects on the hospitals who are in constant financial difficulties due to people who can’t pay,” he said. “I hope to better serve Detroit, now and in the future.”

Dr. Kertia Black, assistant dean for student affairs, said Lee has already distinguished himself as a caring doctor and a competent professional. “He has outstanding leadership skills and a keen ability to balance classes, Student Senate responsibilities and community service. We are lucky to have him serving our patients, students and residents.”

Student runs marathon for charity

Third-year student Erin Kenyon hit the pavement in the Vancouver Marathon in May. She and her fiancée trained for seven months and raised $7,000 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, as part of a 400-person Team in Training that collectively raised $1.4 million for the cause.

Kenyon has been running races since she was in the sixth grade, and this was her second marathon.

“It was difficult running in Vancouver, but it was more fun than my first marathon because I was running with Team in Training. There was a ton of cheering and support from people involved in the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society on the course,” she said.

Mausumi Syamal: engineer, actress, medical student

How did a mechanical engineer at GM end up in medical school at WSU? Second-year student Mausumi Syamal said, “Initially I was drawn to medicine because I believed that medicine was the perfect balance between the arts and sciences. It was the blending of two seemingly different schools of thought into one – the art of healing meeting the science of physiology.”

As one classmate said, “When one takes into account the amount of physics involved in physiology, from the fluid dynamics of airflow in the lungs to circulating blood in the body, this expertise has allowed her to help many of her peers to better understand the material.”

Syamal has helped her classmates do more than understand coursework. She is a class representative, serves on the school’s Professionalism Committee, coordinates HIV/AIDS outreach, and volunteers at the COTS Shelter in Detroit. These and other service efforts earned her an Outstanding Graduate/Professional Student Award at the Wayne State University 2005-2006 Campus Life Leadership Awards.

She said she was certain on her first day at WSU that medicine was her true professional passion. “I had spent many years preparing to enter medical school and I was determined to enjoy every minute of it. Sitting on the cushioned seat at orientation, I realized that there was never a rule about how many passions one can pursue, and I truly believe that when you find yourself doing the things that you love, you find the time to maintain those things, and that in itself is rejuvenating and to some extent, effortless,” she said.

In addition to engineering and medicine, Syamal has enjoyed onstage pursuits as an actress, model and singer auditioning on Broadway. She has brought those talents to WSU by organizing open mic night at the medical school, and singing with the Ultrasounds, a student a cappella group. “Acting and performing push me to see emotions and life through another’s eyes - a skill that I feel will enable me to connect with my patients as a physician,” she said.

Empathy for patients is critical to Syamal, who volunteers for the Bichitra Bengali Association of Detroit, a cultural organization that helps her understand how different communities have different attitudes towards everything from education to medical care. “As a physician, it is critical to understand the community that you will be serving because often a patient’s community can influence their attitude towards treatment and disease as well as adherence to treatment plans and medications. Moreover, it is imperative to not only be able to recognize the potential differences but to also show a genuine understanding of these differences,” she said.
“Do unto others as you’d have them do unto you,” is a traditional way of saying be nice and treat others with kindness. Bringing that fundamental element to medicine was the goal of seven third-and-fourth-year medical students in founding the Wayne State University chapter of the Arnold P. Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS).

This honor society, which has established chapters at more than 80 medical schools across the country, recognizes students and physician teachers who promote professionalism, compassion and humanism in medicine.

“We already have awards to honor the brilliant people with the best grades. This is a way to recognize humanistic attributes in proficient scientists. After all, patients don’t often talk about their doctors’ grades. They talk about how their doctors treat them,” said third-year student Brendan Burns.

WSU’s Gold Humanism Honor Society selects the top 10-15 percent of third- and fourth-year students who are nominated by their peers for their professionalism and compassion for patients. These honorees are recognized as role models and student leaders to subtly guide and shape the behaviors and attitudes of other medical professionals in training.

“The people who have been honored with membership in the society have astounding pedigrees of involvement in the school and community. They are the ones who give up their free time for the good of others. They were the inspiration for this society,” Burns said.

The first inductees were honored at a celebration in the spring and two special awards were given at inaugural banquet. The Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award was presented to graduate Chih Chuang, ’06, who was nominated and elected by his peers against a group of highly skilled and deserving students. The Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Faculty Award was presented to Dr. Maryjean Schenk, professor and chair of family medicine, who is an inspiration to students.

Next year, the group hopes to present a Resident Teaching Award, bring humanistic medicine to the White Coat Ceremony for new students, and initiate a Student Clinician Ceremony for third-year students as they prepare for hands-on patient interactions.

Ken Kish, GHHS faculty advisor, is proud that students are concerned about recognizing and promoting this important element of their medical training. “The Gold Humanism Honor Society fills a need at the school to recognize students who demonstrate exceptional clinical skills and professionalism. The first group of honorees are highly deserving of this award. They have received outstanding clinical evaluations and have also received excellent comments on professionalism. In addition, this first group gave a significant amount of time and effort to launch our chapter of the GHHS,” Kish said.

Founders of the society – Dr. Diane Levine, Roman Czubatyj, year III, Dr. Lawrence Schwartz and Dr. Joel Appel, present certificates to the inductees and awardees.

Third-year students Kristoffer Sugg and Minda Patt, co-founders of the organization, enjoy the induction banquet at the gorgeous La Dolce Vita Ristorante in Detroit.

Dr. Maryjean Schenk accepts a faculty award, presented by third-year student Brendan Burns.

Congratulations

Faculty
Joel Appel, D.O.
Diane Levine, M.D.
Donald Levine, M.D.
Maryjean Schenk, M.D., M.P.H.
Lawrence Schwartz, M.D.

Class of 2006
Mathew Abraham
Kiran Arora
Chih Chuang
Ginger Conner
Arti Desai
Ramin Eskandari
Naveen Reddy
Scott Ross
Sachin Shah
Edisa Tokovic
Dee Dee Wang

Class of 2007
Craig Bailey
John Berschback
Brendan Burns
Andrew Compton
Sarah Deighton-Collins
Roman Czubatyj
Leslie Field
Lily Go
Jamal McClendon
Minda Patt
Jenese Reynolds
David Steiger
Kristoffer Sugg
Antonette Whitehead
David Willsen

... to the first inductees into the WSU chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society.
Dr. Darius Mehregan appointed chair of dermatology

Dean Robert M. Mentzer, Jr., announced the appointment of Darius R. Mehregan, M.D., as chair of the Wayne State University Department of Dermatology. Dr. Mehregan, who has served as a clinical assistant professor in the department for 12 years, is a dermatopathologist for the well-respected Pinkus Laboratory, in Monroe, Mich.

“I am confident that Dr. Mehregan is the right person to lead the department to a new level of excellence,” Dean Mentzer said. “Dr. Mehregan will work to diversify the department through aggressive faculty recruitment. He also plans to reach out to voluntary faculty in the community to rebuild and fortify relationships that have long been integral to the department’s ability to provide quality education to medical students and residents.”

Darius Mehregan, a graduate of the University of Michigan Medical School, completed an internship in internal medicine at UM Hospitals before serving out his residency in the Mayo Clinic’s Department of Dermatology. In 1993, he completed a fellowship in dermatopathology at New York University.

In addition, David A. Mehregan, M.D., another longtime clinical assistant professor in the department, has been named associate chair and residency program director. David Mehregan, Darius’s brother, will work to streamline and strengthen educational programming, particularly for the 12 residents enrolled in the department’s three-year program.

David Mehregan graduated from the WSU School of Medicine before completing an internship at William Beaumont Hospital, in Royal Oak. He served his residency and dermatopathology fellowship at the Mayo Clinic.

The Mehregans have each authored more than 50 papers, chapters and books within the field of dermatology. They also serve as associate editors for the International Journal of Dermatology.

The Mehregans have served as co-directors of the American Society of Dermatopathology Quality Assurance Program and are members of numerous professional societies, including the American and International societies of dermatopathology, the Society of Investigative Dermatology, the International Society of Dermatology and the American Academy of Dermatology.

ER docs get intense boot camp training

The words “boot camp” conjure up images of intensity, hard work, regimented order amidst chaos, an outstanding code of conduct, mental and physical exhaustion, and finally - great accomplishment.

Although normally applied to military personnel, Boot Camp aptly describes the review course for emergency medicine residents taught by Dr. Kirk Mills, M.D., for the last 10 years.

Dr. Mills, associate professor of emergency medicine, was awarded the 2005 American College of Emergency Physicians Faculty Teaching Award for his outstanding teaching of emergency medicine residents. One of the criteria for this award was to have contributed something unique to the field of emergency medicine and the Boot Camp program certainly fits that description.

Boot Camp consists of a six-month course that delivers an intensive review of the entire core curriculum in emergency medicine, from all of the recognized emergency medicine references.

The intensive, compacted and accelerated curriculum originated 10 years ago when emergency medicine residents asked Dr. Mills to help them review for their national tests. “I told them that I wanted to do a completely new type of book review and do it in a new way,” he said. “I wanted to teach them how to recognize testable material from all the different references and apply it to the practice of medicine by framing questions and subject material a little differently.” Most importantly, Dr. Mills wanted consistency in the delivery of that information, so he has been the only faculty member to teach boot camp over the past decade. That’s over 100 sessions without a substitution.

Dr. Mills said that most residency program book review sessions would take a topic and cover the entire subject without making any distinction towards what information was important for test purposes. This nebulous approach leads to a lot of inefficiency in preparing for national performance examinations. In contrast, the boot camp review and discussion gets to the heart of it immediately by identifying what makes up testable material and organizing it in an easy-to-learn format.

“My goal is to help the residents understand how tests are written, how emergency room doctors formulate informed diagnoses, and how to approach any medical problem by starting with what we already know,” Dr. Mills said.

The idea of Boot Camp originally started as far back as Dr. Mills’ own residency at York, Penn., when he discovered that he excelled at the emergency medicine national tests but his fellow classmates struggled with identifying important test material. He started a mini boot camp as the chief resident, but it took coming to Detroit Receiving Hospital before he could develop it into a full-fledged review course.

Boot Camp trainees are emergency medicine residents who get detailed review sheets and meet every other week from August to December to discuss various medical subjects. They examine issues, take mock exams and quizzes, get feedback, and are encouraged to get it right the first time.

Although it’s a fun exercise in education for all participants, we’re proud that this work has resulted in WSU/Detroit Medical Center residents scoring higher on the board certification exams,” Dr. Mills said.

“We really work to start first-year residents off on the right foot and get them into intensive study mode immediately. If they do poorly on the first tests, there is a negative kindling or reinforcement effect,” Dr. Mills said. “It’s like when a kid spells a word incorrectly on a spelling test. You tend to second guess the correct spelling of that word for the rest of your life. I found that if you master this test material the first time in practice, you continue to master it, even after the test. However, if you are weak when you begin the testing, your improvement isn’t as substantial, because you continually question yourself. We arm residents with lots of solid knowledge upfront, so they do well from the start.”

“Once residents learn these techniques and become confident, they begin to make the right decisions even if they encounter strange questions about things they haven’t seen before,” Dr. Mills said. Just as military soldiers learn their roles and rules and begin to act on instinct, Boot Camp graduates find themselves having to put less and less exerted effort into learning, because it becomes part of their role.

The teaching style of Dr. Mills helps residents score well on exams and retain knowledge for clinical practice.

After serving WSU for 12 years, Darius Mehregan has been named chair of dermatology.

David Mehregan has been named associate chair and residency director for the department.
One-year anniversary celebrates Wayne First campaign

About 1,200 employees, students, donors and friends gathered on May 25 to mark the first anniversary of the public launch of Wayne State University’s historic capital campaign and to celebrate its success so far.

Wayne First: The Campaign for Wayne State University, has raised $320 million toward a $500 million goal. Funds raised through Wayne First will help support scholarships, research, faculty endowments and student programs, as well as new construction and improvements to existing structures.

The afternoon celebration featured Amyre Makupson, former Detroit TV news anchor, who led a donor recognition program. Jacquelin Washington, chair, Wayne State Board of Governors, addressed the crowd, followed by Gov. Jennifer Granholm, who stressed that the role of Michigan universities is to transform the economy.

“The importance of universities to our state’s economy cannot be overstated,” she said. “Our goal is to double the number of college graduates. … What you’re doing here is remarkable.”

At the Donor Recognition Program, Wayne State President Irvin Reid acknowledged benefactors who have stepped forward with significant gifts during the past year. Among them are medical school donors.

“This campaign is not about reaching a dollar goal, though we are confident that we will reach ours,” Reid said. “It first and foremost is about advancing Wayne State University to the top of its class. Wayne First will provide the motive force for Wayne State to take the place it deserves among the nation’s great public universities.”

In the Research Roundtable exhibit, faculty members displayed and discussed their research projects and their applications. Dr. Michael Tainsky from the School of Medicine presented his work on “New Technology for the Early Diagnosis of Cancer.”

The Construction Zone exhibit highlighted four future capital projects: the new School of Business Administration building; the Marvin Danto Engineering Development Center, which will house high-priority research and development programs; the Law School’s Damon J. Keith Classroom Building and Center for Civil Rights; and the Richard J. Mazurek, M.D., Medical Education Commons.

The school has been awarded a $3 million grant from The Kresge Foundation to support construction of the commons.

Wayne First Campaign, a fundraising drive is underway to name funds raised through Wayne First: The Campaign for Wayne State University School of Medicine is paying tribute to Marjorie Peebles-Meyers, M.D., its first African-American woman graduate. Part of the Wayne First Campaign, a fundraising drive is underway to name the grand entrance to the Richard J. Mazurek, M.D., Medical Education Commons as the Marjorie Peebles-Meyers, M.D., Atrium.

Colleagues and patients alike remember Dr. Peebles-Meyers as a compassionate doctor who was dedicated to improving health care in her community. It is fitting that the atrium, that will welcome people from all walks of life to the medical school, will exist in her memory.

The three-story lobby with floor-to-ceiling windows, will have overstuffed chairs and lush, colossal plants for students to break from their studies. The highlight of the lobby is the Super Service Center, with an information desk that will be the focal point for the Shiffman Library’s expected 10,000 annual inquiries. As the only medical library in southeast Michigan open to the public, it has a huge constituency from the academic community as well as metropolitan Detroit consumers with health questions.

“This area is most important since it’s where the information is dispersed,” says Ellen Marks, the library’s director.

It is also an important remembrance of Dr. Peebles-Meyers who broke racial and gender barriers and lived with a mission of community service. At WSU, she was the only black woman in a class of 63 students. She was the first African-American woman accepted as an intern at Detroit Receiving Hospital and the first black woman to become its chief resident. She also was among the first Detroit doctors to establish an interracial private practice in 1947 with the late Dr. Eugene Shafarman. She was named a Distinguished Warrior by the Detroit Urban League; was a member of the Michigan Women’s Hall of Fame; and was profiled by Newsweek magazine as one of 100 notable Americans in 1986.

She was quoted in a Detroit Free Press article, saying, “At the city hospital, you would see everyone – rich, poor, black, white – plus a lot of accident victims. And I found out that when your life is on the line, you don’t pay much attention to the skin of your doctor or the man in the next bed. You just want to live.”

Dr. Peebles-Meyers retired at age 70 and died in 2001 at age 86. Her spirit will remain alive at WSU through the Medical Education Commons. To make a contribution to a legacy of compassionate medical training and service, please contact Erika Walker at (313) 577-9739.

School’s first black woman doctor to be memorialized with named Education Commons atrium

Dr. Marjorie Peebles-Meyers has been honored as a true pathfinder in medicine.

As a proud educator of ethnically diverse physicians, the Wayne State University School of Medicine is paying lasting homage to Marjorie Peebles-Meyers, M.D., its first African-American woman graduate. Part of the Wayne First Campaign, a fundraising drive is underway to name the grand entrance to the Richard J. Mazurek, M.D., Medical Education Commons as the Marjorie Peebles-Meyers, M.D., Atrium.

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The Medical Education Commons will boast this expansive atrium for computer labs, studying and information sharing.
Planned Giving

If your nest egg is a tax trap or a legacy of careful planning? You may have worked hard to secure your retirement years, but if you’re not careful, your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) could be hit with taxes totaling as much as 60 percent at your death!

While tax laws encourage the building of a nice nest egg, laws are also in place that are designed to recoup the tax benefits afforded while the fund was being built. For example, if your IRA is valued at $1.2 million at your death, the total estate and applicable income taxes on the fund could equal as much as $720,000. And if you view your IRA (or other qualified plan) as a part of your children’s inheritance, it can seriously damage your objectives.

With some careful planning it is possible to avoid this trap. You can use funds from your Keogh plan, qualified pension or profit-sharing plan to leave a substantial and meaningful gift to the Wayne State University School of Medicine after your lifetime. The generous tax savings from this carefully planned gift will enhance your overall estate plan and can benefit your heirs.

To name the School of Medicine as beneficiary of your IRA, 403(b) or other retirement assets, request a beneficiary designation form from your plan administrator; complete it designating Wayne State University’s School of Medicine as your beneficiary; and return it to the administrator. For IRAs and Keogh plans that you self-administer, notify the custodian in writing. Be sure to keep a copy for your records, and please send a copy to us at the address below so we can know your wishes when your gift arrives. If you wish to designate a particular area of the school to receive your future gift, you should specify that on the designation form.

You also can use retirement fund assets such as your IRA to fund a charitable remainder trust to benefit your heir. This would provide lifetime income to your loved one, an eventual gift to the School of Medicine, and your estate will benefit from a generous charitable deduction.

For more information and for assistance in arranging a gift of your retirement assets or other carefully planned gift, please contact Patty Paquin at (313) 577-0026 or e-mail ppaquin@med.wayne.edu. We look forward to working with you to accomplish your plans.

Dr. Charles Boyce

Dr. Charles Boyce, a faculty member in the WSU Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology for 11 years in the 1960s and ’70s, died in Naples, Fla. He was 77.

Dr. Boyce joined the WSU School of Medicine in March 1966, and was a pioneer in the development, standardization and treatment in the field of gynecologic oncology. While at WSU, Dr. Boyce led the Division of Gynecologic Oncology and concentrated his work on peritoneal cytology as well as combined radiation and chemotherapy.

A native of Proctor, Vt., Dr. Boyce graduated from the University of Vermont Medical School in 1953. He served in the Navy during the Korean War, achieving the rank of lieutenant commander by the time of completing his tour of duty in 1964.

He served in the Navy during the Korean War, achieving the rank of lieutenant commander by the time of completing his tour of duty in 1964. Dr. Boyce then served on the staff of Henry Ford Hospital, where he completed his board certification in obstetrics and gynecology as well as gynecologic oncology.

After leaving the School of Medicine in 1977, Dr. Boyce went to Portland’s Mercy Hospital and eventually retired in 1989 as head of the Department of OB/GYN at Maine Medical Center.

Dr. Boyce is survived by his four children and their families, four in-laws and six nieces and nephews.
Dr. John Burrows, M.D.

John Burrows, M.D., an accomplished physician and breast cancer researcher, died from non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma at age 73 in Seneca, S.C.

He was simultaneously meticulous and caring – which left a lasting impression among patients, colleagues said. “They sensed his devotion to them, his faithfulness and his courage and in having to carry them through hardships … that are oftentimes distressing,” said his longtime friend, Dr. Michael Brennan, professor emeritus at Wayne State University. “He was superb.”

Dr. Burrows was born Dec. 10, 1932, in Dearborn, and later lived on a farm near Dexter. He earned his medical degree from the University of Michigan. He established the nuclear medicine department at St. John Hospital in Detroit and later chaired its oncology department.

Dr. Burrows also extended his schedule to include house calls, making him “the most loyal caregiver I have ever known,” Dr. Brennan said. “He was tremendously faithful to his patients.”

Dr. Burrows also worked at the Michigan Cancer Institute, which would become the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, where he extensively researched breast cancer treatments, Brennan said. Dr. Burrows served on the board of directors for Karmanos Hospice; was assistant director of medical education at the Wayne State School of Medicine; was president of the Michigan Society of Hematology and Oncology; and served as a consultant with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Medicare, as well as a senior medical examiner for the Federal Aviation Association.

Dr. Burrows also extended his schedule to include house calls, making him “the most loyal caregiver I have ever known,” Dr. Brennan said. “He was tremendously faithful to his patients.”

Dr. Burrows also served with Grosse Pointe city committees to develop parks and other space, said his son, Stephen Burrows.

He competed in more than 20 Port Huron-to-Mackinac races, ran marathons, skied, windsurfed and earned his pilot’s license.

Survivors include his wife, Kathleen Kubalak; a son, Stephen; two daughters, Abigail and Elizabeth; one grandson, Spencer; two brothers; and a sister.

Dr. Lawrence Patrick

Lawrence Patrick, a pioneer in automotive safety design at Wayne State University whose work led to advancements in the development of the air bag, died of complications from Parkinson’s disease. He lived in North Carolina and was 85.

Patrick, a mechanical engineer who became research director at the university in 1946 and later became director of the Wayne State Biomechanics Research Center in 1965, was involved in collecting data on the effects of high-speed collisions on the human body.

He employed the use of cadavers in the beginning stages to test seat belts, safety glass for windshields, collapsible steering columns, dashboards, air bags and many other automotive safety features available in today’s automobiles.

“My father’s legacy is that he made a difference and continues to make a difference in the world, not just Michigan,” said his son, James Patrick. “The people whose lives he saved and the injuries that were reduced or avoided because of the research that he and others did speak for itself.”

Engineers, together with physicians at the WSU School of Medicine, began the first controlled laboratory research in trauma biomechanics in 1939. Their body of work helped establish the university’s reputation as a leader in that field.

“He was a giant in the business,” said Albert King, a professor of biomedical engineering at WSU and chair of the department. “Everybody respected his knowledge and ability to discern how to solve problems. He affected many of the designs and safety standards in the industry.”

Patrick was born in Detroit. He received a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering, another bachelor’s degree – in aeronautical engineering – in 1943, and a master’s degree in mechanical engineering in 1955, all from Wayne State.

In addition to his research, Patrick was a professor at the university for nearly two decades.

In 1976, Mr. Patrick joined Libby-Owens-Ford Co. in Toledo as vice president of research and development, studying windshield and automotive glazing safety materials.

He retired in 1982.

Patrick was the recipient of numerous academic and industry honors, including the A.W. Siegel Award for outstanding research and contributions to crash injury protection and was a member of the WSU Engineering Hall of Fame.

In addition to his son and his wife of 65 years, Patrick is survived by two daughters, Jody Ard and Kathryn Patrick; a sister; a brother, and seven grandchildren.

Dr. Dale Sillix

Dale H. Sillix, Jr., M.D., a long-time member of the WSU Department of Internal Medicine, died May 4 and was honored at a Scott Hall service. Dr. Sillix, who coordinated the year II renal pathophysiology class, will have a fund established in her name to recognize the meritorious work of students, residents or fellows in the field of nephrology.

Dr. Sillix had served as an assistant professor in the Division of Nephrology since 1983. She earned her medical degree from the University of Kansas before completing an internship at the Veterans Administration Medical Center, in Allen Park, Mich. After finishing her residency at Detroit General Hospital, where she served as chief resident, she served as a nephrology research fellow with the National Kidney Foundation at the WSU School of Medicine.

After finishing her residency at Detroit General Hospital, where she served as chief resident, she served as a nephrology research fellow with the National Kidney Foundation at the WSU School of Medicine.

Dr. Sillix served as medical director of the WSU renal transplant program at Harper University Hospital. She was a dedicated academic physician and had published numerous papers, books and chapters in addition to maintaining a strong role in teaching and course-curriculum development.

In 1997, she won the school’s College Teaching Award.

To make a contribution to the memorial fund, please make checks to Wayne State University School of Medicine, indicating “IMO Dale Sillix, M.D.” on the memo line.

Donations should be mailed to WSU School of Medicine, Development and Alumni Affairs, 4201 St. Antoine, 8G, Detroit, MI 48201.
Dear Graduate Students and Alums,

As our 2006-07 graduate recruiting season approaches, I have been pondering an issue that has direct impact on our school’s recruiting success. For those of us passionately engaged in biomedical research and training, we often find it difficult to understand why our passion is not shared by others, especially the many young high school and college students who are exposed to science in the classroom and laboratory, but who subsequently view science as a less than desirable career path! National discussion among active scientists, educators and prospective students has identified several concerns that drive the decision-making process of potential science trainees.

Frequently topping that list of concerns is the length of time one must invest to obtain a graduate science degree and to become an independent scientist, researcher or educator – time which is often extended by the postdoctoral training period commonly required after the Ph.D. The potential delays in earning power and permanent employment are viewed negatively by students. To provide you with some perspective, today’s life scientist starts graduate school at an older age, takes two years longer to complete the Ph.D. and averages 12 years of age at graduation versus. those students training in the 1970s. In addition, current life scientists average five or more years in a postdoctoral position or positions and are 35-40 years old in their first permanent job. Surprisingly, these trends were documented nearly eight years ago (NAS - Recent Trends in the Careers of Life Scientists, 1998).

The postdoctoral issue, especially the unsettling trend of multiple postdoc positions, is a topic for another time. For now, I want to share with you how we, as an educational institution, have positively influenced the front half of this equation, i.e., the time-to-degree (TTD) within School of Medicine graduate training programs.

An analysis of TTD data for School of Medicine Ph.D. programs from 1985-2000 showed an average of 5.7 years vs. the national average for the life sciences of 5.5 years. A good showing, but we knew improvements were necessary! Our program faculty initiated the implementation of the Interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences (IBS) core curriculum in 1999, as one several recommendations arising from the CAGE (Committee for the Assessment of Graduate Education) report. This single action put the school on track to halt and eventually reverse the lengthening TTD component previously facing a prospective biomedical scientist trainee. The IBS curriculum generated significant reduction in redundant courses, in excessive time spent in lectures and facilitated a more rapid entry into the research lab. As a consequence, recent reassessment of TTD, looking at the period since the start of the IBS core, revealed a remarkable trend!

Although our review of individual program degree completion times covers only the seven years from 2000 to 2006, the data are impressive. Over that seven-year time frame, the school’s graduate programs were able to reduce the TTD by nearly one year! We now boast the ability to graduate Ph.D. biomedical scientists in an average of 4.8 years.

What’s the optimal TTD? Can WSU continue to nibble away at the current TTD while continuing to provide a rigorous educational environment? The debate among life scientists continues, and a broad consensus may not be reached, but four years seems to be a reasonable target for many science disciplines. The economic and professional impact of lengthy training commitments does influence potential career choices by college undergraduates. If the nation hopes to continue to attract qualified and enthusiastic candidates to its scientific training programs, in the quantity necessary to populate the next generation of scientists, we must look for ways to enhance the attractiveness of such training. Improved compensation and reduced training periods may be two such paths.

As always, your keen interest in the WSU School of Medicine and the progress of our graduate biomedical science training is warmly appreciated.

Kenneth C. Palmer, Ph.D.
Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs
**Honors and Achievements**

Gary Abrams, M.D., professor and chair of ophthalmology at the Kresge Eye Institute, received the Distinguished Service Award at the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology Annual Meeting, in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Dr. Abrams was recognized for his service as president of the organization and his membership on ARVO’s Board of Trustees. The organization is the largest vision research organization in the world with more than 11,000 members from throughout the world.

Joel Ager, Ph.D., professor in the Center for Healthcare Effectiveness Research, has accepted the position of interim director of the Division of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, a new division in the Department of Family Medicine.

David Bassett, Ph.D., former chair of occupational and environmental health sciences, has been named graduate studies officer for WSU’s M.P.H. Program.

Patricia Brown, M.D., associate professor of internal medicine, was appointed chief of internal medicine at Detroit Receiving Hospital.

Michael Chon, M.D., associate professor and interim chair of urology, presented a summary of the known signal transduction pathways between the prostate cancer cell, osteoclasts, osteoblasts, and bone endothelial cells at the AUA 2006 meeting. The presentation was called “Bone-Targeted Prostate Cancer Treatment: Insights Into the Interaction Between the Cancer Cell And Its Environment.”

John Flack, M.D., M.P.H., interim chair of internal medicine, presented results from the CAPABLE study and GEMINI study at the International Society of Hypertension in Blacks (ISHIB) board’s first meeting in Atlanta in May.

Frank MacMaster, a WSU post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Neurosciences, published a paper in Biological Psychiatry. The paper, which was co-authored with Dr. David Rosenberg, who is Miriam L. Hamburger Endowed Chair of Child Psychiatry, was titled “Pituitary Volume in Treatment-naive Pediatric Major Depression.” The study found that depressed children differ from age- and sex-matched healthy children in the size of the pituitary. Boys were more affected than girls, and distinct alterations were noted in the pituitary of children with a family history of depression vs. depressed children with no obvious family history of mood disorder.

Julius Gardin, M.D., professor of internal medicine, was honored with the Seymour Gordon Award for Distinguished Achievement from the American Heart Association in recognition of lifetime achievement in the fight against heart disease and stroke.

Alan Hudson, Ph.D., professor of immunology and microbiology, received funding from the WSU Research Enhancement Program for his proposal, “Nanotechnology-based Approaches for Understanding and Preventing Chlamydial Pathogenesis.”

Matt Jackson, Ph.D., assistant dean for basic science curriculum, and Mike Connor, a year IV WSU medical student, presented three talks at the 11th Microbiology & Immunology Educational Strategies Workshop, in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Connor, who will be starting a residency in emergency medicine at Henry Ford Health System after graduation, presented “Evaluation Strategies in Medical Education: Student Perspectives.” In addition, Dr. Jackson presented “LCME: Current Knowledge Objectives” and “The Brilliance of PDAs in Medicine.”

Mark Juzycz, M.D., assistant dean for graduate medical education, participated in a roundtable discussion in Washington on “Eliminating the Physician Shortage Act of 2006” legislation recently drafted by U.S. Rep. John Conyers, Jr. D-Mich. The goals of the legislation are to increase the number of new medical school admissions by 30,000 per year by increasing the number of slots at medical schools, revitalizing the J-1 Visa Program to recruit foreign medical students and creating new medical schools.

Peter Karpawich, M.D., professor of pediatrics and director of cardiac electrophysiology at Children’s Hospital of Michigan, was an invited speaker at the Children’s Hospital of Boston, Harvard Medical School, symposium on cardiac resynchronization pacing therapy in children. He was also an invited faculty speaker at the Medtronic pacemaker symposium on the latest pacing lead technology used in patients with congenital heart defects. In addition, Dr. Karpawich presented independent research, titled “Need for Associated Interventional Devices During Ablation and Pacemaker Implant in Young Adults with Transposition/Mustard Anatomy” at the 27th annual Scientific Session of the Heart Rhythm Society, in Boston, in May. His co-investigators were Drs. Kavitha Chintala, assistant professor of pediatric cardiology; Daniel Turner, assistant professor of pediatric cardiology; and Thomas Forbes, associate professor of pediatric cardiology.

Jeanne Lushhey, M.D., distinguished professor of pediatrics and Marion I. Barnhart Chair in Thrombosis-Hemostasis Research, was elected co-chair of the board of directors of the American Thrombosis/Hemostasis Research Network at the board’s first meeting in Atlanta in May.

Kamran Moghissi, M.D., professor of obstetrics and gynecology, was invited to China for a series of lectures. In Beijing, he presented “The Uterine Abnormalities and Infertility” at the 14th International Symposium of Gynecological Endoscopy. In Hangzhou, he presented a keynote address on “Update on Diagnosis and Management of PCOS” for the Zhejiang Gynecology and Infertility Symposium 2006. In Longyou Regional Hospital, he spoke on “Evaluation and Management of Infertility.” He was appointed an adjunct professor by the president of the Zhejiang Chinese Medical University and was honored at a reception given by the mayor of the city, president of the hospital, and the director of public health.

Mark Upfal, M.D., M.P.H., associate professor of emergency medicine and corporate medical director of Detroit Medical Center Occupational Health Services, received two awards at the annual conference of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine. Dr. Upfal’s years of service on the board of directors of the ACOEM was rewarded with an Award of Leadership Recognition and the President’s Award for chairing a Washington, D.C., summit on the future of training in occupational and environmental medicine.

Frank Yelian, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology in the Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility Division, was invited to China for a series of lectures. In Beijing, he presented “The Uterine Abnormalities and Infertility” at the 14th International Symposium of Gynecological Endoscopy. In Hangzhou, he presented a keynote address on “Update on Diagnosis and Management of PCOS” for the Zhejiang Gynecology and Infertility Symposium 2006. In Longyou Regional Hospital, he spoke on “Evaluation and Management of Infertility.” He was appointed an adjunct professor by the president of the Zhejiang Chinese Medical University and was honored at a reception given by the mayor of the city, president of the hospital, and the director of public health.
**Honors and Achievements continued from page 19**

**Neurology faculty make strong showing**

Robert Lisak, M.D., professor and chair of the WSU Department of Neurology, reported the accomplishments of many faculty members who presented research at the recent annual meeting of the American Academy of Neurology in San Diego. Presentations involving WSU Department of Neurology faculty members included:

- G. Acsadi and A.A. Acsadi, "Intravenous Plasmid DNA-mediated Gene Transfer of IGF-1 is Therapeutic for SOD1 Mouse Model of ALS"
- G. VanStaverm, K.M. Krajewski and M. Shy, "Mutations in the Mitochondrial Fusion Protein Mitofilin 2 Cause Axonal Neuropath and Optic Atrophy"
- S. Willis, S.M. Weinsheimer, H. Kuivaniemi and G. Tromp, "Smoking and Family History Confer Greatest Risk for Intracranial Aneurysms"
- S. Sheth, R. Rao and R. Lewis, "Is Pain a Manifestation of Early Stages of Peripheral Neuropathy?"
- C. Rao, "Genotype-phenotype Correlation in Two Families with Dominant Intermediate Charcot-Marie-Tooth Neuropathy Type C (DI-CMTC) with Mutant Tyrosyl-tRNA Synthetase (TyRS)"
- J. Li, E. Iankova, Q. Pu, K. Ghandour, M. Shy and Y. Bai, "R69C Mutation in P0 Genet Alters Myelination and Ion Channel Subtype"
- C. Rao, M. Bharaneshi, K. Krajewski, M. Shy and J. Li, "Prediction of HNPP Mutation by an Electrophysiological Pattern"
- O. Khan, "Dissection of the Admixture Multiple Sclerosis Susceptibility Locus on Chromosome 1 to 4Mb Interval in an African-American Population"
- O. Khan, C. Caon, M. MacKenzie, F. Bao, Z. Latif, D. Lisak, and R. Lisak, "Benign or Not So Benign MS"
- C. Caon, M. MacKenzie, A. Tsilis, R. Lisak and O. Khan, "Neurolologic Symptoms Suggestive of CNS Demyelinating Disease in the Presence of Normal Imaging and Laboratory Investigations: Long-term Follow-up and Development of Multiple Sclerosis"
- S. Seth, C. Rao, A. Tsilis and R. Lewis, "HIV Neuropathy and Glucose Dysmetabolism"
- E. Iankova, R. Lewis, G. Acsadı, R. Anguelov, J. Kamholz and M. Shy, "AAV-GDNF Improves Neuropathy in Mpz−/− Mice"
- W. Coplin, "Diffusion-weighted Imaging Evaluation for Understanding Stroke Evolution: The DEFUSE Study"
- R. Lisak, C. Cao, J. Kamholz, A. Tsilis, O. Khan and D. Lisak, "A Composite MRI Score (Z4) Predicts Disability over the Next 4.5 Years in a Prospectively Followed Cohort of Subjects on Glatiramer Acetate"

**Karmanos Cancer Center completes collaboration deal with Turkish center**

A medical collaboration between the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute and a cancer center in Istanbul, Turkey, will give international patients the opportunity to seek medical advice in the U.S.

John Ruckdeschel, president and CEO of Karmanos, signed an agreement with Bilger Durman, president and CEO of Metropolitan Florence Nightingale Hospital and Cancer Center, and Cemisdemiorglu, chair of the center’s management board. The agreement allows doctors at Karmanos to review patients’ cases in Turkey and recommend treatment.

"This agreement broadens the base for patients," Dr. Ruckdeschel said. "It also allows us the opportunity to do the process of international patient care right."

Dr. Ruckdeschel was introduced to the Turkish cancer center through Eti Gurse, chief of plastic surgery at Wayne State University, who is from Turkey.

Doctors at Karmanos will review patients’ records electronically, confirming illnesses and recommending treatments. Patients will have the option of coming to the U.S. for treatment if necessary without wasting time or money.

A consultation fee of $1,000 and medical care will be paid by the patient. Additional costs related to education or conferences will be shared between the two medical centers.

**Dr. Shankaran achieves university’s highest honor**

Seetha Shankaran, M.D., professor of pediatrics and chief of the Division of Neonatology, has been selected to join the WSU Academy of Scholars. Election is the highest recognition that may be bestowed upon faculty members by their colleagues. Dr. Shankaran, who has served at the university for nearly three decades, has led the Division of Neonatology to international renown during the past 15 years. She has been principal investigator on a number of major research projects, which have totaled about $12.5 million. Dr. Shankaran has published more than 100 peer-reviewed papers in prestigious journals, including The New England Journal of Medicine and the Journal of Pediatrics. Her most recent study, which found that lowering an infant’s body temperature within the first six hours of life reduces the chances for disability and death among infants who failed to receive enough oxygen or blood to the brain during birth, was deemed an important step forward in developing therapies that may advance the care and recovery of infants who are injured during birth. Respected by neonatologists, pediatricians, obstetricians and epidemiologists, the letters of support for Dr. Shankaran’s nomination to the academy were remarkably strong.

The other three new members joining the academy are: Thomas M. Cormier, professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS); Anjaneyulu Kowluru, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences; and Gang George Yin, professor, Department of Mathematics, CLAS.

Scholars of the academy are chosen from the most productive and widely recognized scholars at the university. The appointment to the academy is for the lifetime of the scholar. The new members will be formally inducted in October.

**Dr. Lieberman implants state’s first Optimizer System**

Randy Lieberman, M.D., assistant professor of internal medicine and director of cardiac electrophysiology at Harper University Hospital, successfully implanted a new investigational cardiac medical device for the treatment of heart failure – the first of its kind to be performed in the state of Michigan.

The pacemaker-like device, called the Optimizer System, is a pulse generator designed to deliver electrical impulses to the heart for the treatment of moderate-to-severe heart failure. The device is the focus of a national multi-center clinical trial to investigate its safety and effectiveness. Impulse Dynamics, a specialty medical device company located in New York is the manufacturer of the device.

Cardiac Contractility Modulation, or CCM, is a novel method used by Optimizer for treating failing hearts. Unlike signals generated by other cardiac devices, the CCM signals do not initiate a heart beat. Rather, CCM signals are intended to modify heart cell function in a manner that affects the contractility of the heart muscle. There are currently no other devices that provide the same therapy as the Optimizer. Pacemakers work to re-establish a normal heart rate through the administration of electrical pacing signals. Defibrillators work to stop abnormal rhythms in a heart that is beating chaotically or too fast by delivering an electric shock. While these devices intend to resolve problems with the heart’s rhythm, the Optimizer System is designed to modulate the strength of contraction of the heart muscle rather than its rhythm.
Some classmates celebrated their five-year reunion, while some celebrated their 50th at the Medical Alumni Reunion and Clinic Day for the WSU School of Medicine. Generations of WSU physicians joined together in May to celebrate their own accomplished careers, to catch up with friends and to support continuing programs at their alma mater.

Calier Worrell, M.D., representative for the class of 1956, earned the veteran physician honor for gathering more than half his remaining classmates to celebrate their 50-year reunion and to pass wisdom along to others. When he was a student, WSU was one of the smallest medical schools in the country, now it is among the largest. At 80 years old, Dr. Worrell still sees pediatric and adolescent patients five mornings a week at his Grosse Pointe, Mich., practice. “After all these years, I know so much, I can’t think about retiring yet,” he said. Dr. Worrell credits Wayne State for allowing him and his classmates to learn by doing, “It’s a great, progressive school, and doctors learn from experience,” he said. “We really got a lot of it.”

Kevin Sprague, M.D., ’80, president-elect of the Medical Alumni Board of Governors, assumed official duties from President Paul Chuba, M.D., ’92, as the gavel was passed and a new alumni season began.

Distinguished Alumni Awards were presented to Daniel Steinberg, M.D., Ph.D., ’44, and Mary Territo, M.D., ’68. Dr. Steinberg is professor of medicine, emeritus, at the University of California San Diego, where he has concentrated his career on lipids and lipoproteins and the underlying mechanisms of atherosclerosis. He is currently working on a book called “The Cholesterol Wars,” a history of the battle to get acceptance of treatment of hypercholesterolemia as a national public health goal. Dr. Territo serves at the University of California Los Angeles where she is vice chair for academic affairs in the Department of Medicine and director of the hematopoietic stem cell transplantation program. Her research focuses on the use of chemotherapy and bone marrow transplantation in the treatment of patients with hematologic disorders and malignancies.

Dr. Kouichi Tanaka, ’52, flew in from California to present the Distinguished Alumni Award to Dr. Territo and to connect with his own classmates.

Two non-alumni honorees received Lawrence M. Weiner Awards for their service to the school. They are John Crissman, M.D., former dean of the WSU School of Medicine, and Gloria Kuhn, D.O., Ph.D., vice chair for academic affairs in WSU’s Department of Emergency Medicine. Additionally, eight students were honored with awards and scholarships.

The continuing medical education program featured topics in geriatric medicine, shoulder surgery, otolaryngology and osteoporosis.
Abu Ghraib detainees served by Dr. Flynn, WSU alum

"When I became a doctor, I said I would help people. That’s what I’ll do. I’m not a judge or a jury. I just care for human beings," said Lisa Flynn, M.D., ’93. Those words are especially profound when you consider who Dr. Flynn’s patients were over the past two years: Iraqi detainees at Abu Ghraib, war prisoners, suicide bombers, innocent civilians, translators and soldiers – both Iraqi and American.

Dr. Flynn, 39, a major and surgeon in the Army reserves, has already done two tours of duty in the Iraq war: first in 2003 when she helped in Fallujah; then from August 2005 to March 2006 when she served as the only general surgeon at the Abu Ghraib hospital and detainee camp.

Dr. Flynn got little warning when it was time to head out just before the war in Iraq began in 2003. “I got a phone call on a Monday and left Friday. My family was very nervous, of course. And at the time, I was doing surgery and vascular surgery at five Detroit-area hospitals. I had only one partner to cover my practice. It really caught all of us off guard,” she said.

“I was near Fallujah for about 90 days, but I only operated on 11 patients in that time. We saw more than that in the ER, but some only needed stitches, etc., and didn’t go to surgery. We were part of a highly mobile forward surgical team, known in the Army as an FST. We were on the front lines, but did damage control surgeries for American soldiers who were too injured to make it farther back behind the lines for medical care. Remember, at that time, we were on the offensive, citizens were happy to see us, there was no real insurgency threat, and people were busy ripping down Sadam Hussein statues. The level of danger didn’t seem as bad then.”

The Abu Ghraib assignment was much different. The facility, once a known torture chamber, is now used by the Army medical unit for health care provisions and as a detainee holding area. Dr. Flynn and another orthopaedic surgeon were the only two surgeons providing care there. She served six months at Abu Ghraib, treated more than 200 patients, and was on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week for the entire time.

“We cared for so many different types of people. For the most part, they were very appreciative and grateful. We helped injured civilians who were thrilled to have American doctors helping them. We treated Iraqi translators and their families. I treated a member of the Iraqi National Guard four times in our emergency department in just six months. After each gunshot wound or shrapnel injury, he was begging to get back to work. He was passionate about having his country back in order. He just wanted to fight for stability," Dr. Flynn said.

“On the other hand, we were constantly threatened. Detainees, who were not prisoners of war, but were waiting for their day in court, were kept in restraints, under secure supervision. I operated on a man’s arm after he tried planting a bomb and it exploded. We were healing people who had tried killing us. But it’s not always clear-cut. Sometimes, the Iraqi soldiers would hire innocent kids to plant their bombs, and the kids didn’t even know what was going on. The lines are fuzzy, but our work was clear. Provide the same quality medical care to all patients, regardless of their stories or circumstances.”

While some medical personnel report major conflict between their professional duties to a patient and their loyalties to their country, Dr. Flynn said human rights are the only important issue. “Some of the younger medics and the military police had a harder time, but we have good training, and I’m not exactly a young kid on the convoy. I was just taking care of sick people.”

Dr. Flynn said she never witnessed any incidents or hints of detainee or prisoner abuse. In fact, she arrived at Abu Ghraib after the 2003 scandal, so at that time, the Army kept very close watch to ensure nobody violated the rules. “We were there to win the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people,” she said. “Cruelty certainly won’t do that. We’re Americans and we’re above that.”

The medical ward she worked in consists of a small tent hospital set inside a warehouse. The warehouse protects workers and patients from the frequent mortar attacks and small-arms fire that pepper the base. There is a 20-bed general medicine ward, a small ICU area, an OR, and space for a pharmacy, lab and x-rays. Medical experts work through interpreters to help detainees.

For six months, Dr. Flynn slept on a cot in an isolated area of the warehouse next to the hospital. She was thankful for the simple things like flush toilets, soap, playing with her dog and peace of mind.
Handson public health official appreciates WSU training

Just like the mutating viruses and pandemics he studies at the World Health Organization (WHO) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Dr. Steven Wiersma is forever changing and adapting to remain ahead of the trend. With his eye on the national and international threats that impact public health, Dr. Wiersma’s dynamic perspective takes him to new continents and job positions frequently.

As of August, he is transitioning from medical officer in the Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals for the WHO to become the associate director for science, managing viral hepatitis at the CDC in Atlanta. With the WHO in Geneva, Switzerland, Dr. Wiersma dealt more with hepatitis B, for which there is a vaccine. Now, back in the United States, he is working on tools to combat hepatitis C, for which there is no real treatment.

“Public health officials like me sometimes find it hard to explain the magnitude of the problem to people who don’t feel personally sick or concerned,” he said. “Hepatitis C is an emerging issue, but it’s not as exciting as mad cow disease. It sounds technical, there’s a bunch of alphabet soup involved, nobody talks about it much. As a public health generalist, I’m most concerned about the pressing issues like the pounds piling up on people causing the obesity epidemic. We need to protect people from known diseases with measurable burdens and also potential problems with estimated burdens.”

As Florida’s head epidemiologist in the 1990s, Dr. Wiersma did both. He handled the first U.S. case of intentional anthrax poisoning, West Nile virus in a human, and mad cow disease, among many other less sexy outbreaks including malaria, encephalitis and TB. Where does a doctor and epidemiologist get training to handle these public health threats? The Wayne State University School of Medicine first – then Zaire, Frankfurt, Saudi Arabia, Zambia, Eritrea and other pivotal stops along the way.

The son of an oncology nurse and social-worker father, Dr. Wiersma accepted a position at the WSU School of Medicine in the 1980s to get serious medical training. He told CNN, “To my parents’ chagrin, I turned down the University of Michigan for a more blood-and-guts setting.” He came to Detroit from Grand Rapids and immediately began to grasp an appreciation for the practice of medicine as bigger than one’s single patient or isolated community. He was intrigued by differences in patient populations and his three-month student elective in Africa set up his public health curiosity. He graduated in 1987 and has been on the road and in the field ever since.

His first training took place in Zaire, now the Democratic Republic of Congo, where he spent three months working with a surgeon and public-health doctor who inspired him. “I had a payback I owed the Air Force – they’d paid for my medical school. So I decided that instead of specializing, I’d give the work of GP (general practitioner) a try. The international public-health thing had really attracted me,” he said. “So, I went into the Air Force, got assigned to Germany for four years. Got stuck for eight months in the Gulf War, living in a tent. Got a lot of public-health training there, too.”

After the Air Force, Dr. Wiersma completed a master’s in public health at Johns Hopkins and began his real fixation with preventive medicine, public health, epidemiology and international medicine. And it was there he became a World Health Organization employee assigned to Zambia to tackle malaria, pneumonia, HIV, TB and population programs. If it weren’t for a near fatal car crash and other circumstances, Dr. Wiersma would probably still be in Zambia, propagating preventive medicine with his wife, Petra, a German physician he met while she trained at Children’s Hospital. Petra has accepted a training position at the CDC in epidemic intelligence. “Essentially, she’s going to be a disease detective,” Dr. Wiersma said.

When his three children (currently 16, 14 and 4 years old) reached school-age, Dr. Wiersma moved back to the states to tackle infectious-disease epidemiology, in concert with the CDC, in his homeland. Now, he manages a national and global health portfolio through cooperation of a number of organizations. “We all have something to learn from one another,” he said.

After seeing the devastation of disease and knowing the details of major health threats around the world, what does Dr. Wiersma fear most? “The flu,” he said.


– DR. STEVEN WIERSMA

Dr. Wiersma’s job took him to Vietnam to improve a number of public health issues.

Dr. Wiersma fights polio in India.

“Several years ago, that was a really boring answer, but since the bird flu hype, that word is gaining credibility. It’s hard to pinpoint, it’s hard to control, and it changes.” Although his bags are not yet unpacked in Atlanta, Dr. Wiersma admits that this position, too, is probably a temporary one. “It’s how we work. It’s part of our lives now,” he said.

That is one Wayne State grad who goes wherever he is needed.
Child well-being and protection are goals of Dr. Imirowicz

While doing his pediatrics rotation as a medical student at WSU in the early 1990s, Richard Imirowicz felt like the job was a little too run-of-the-mill for him. “We were helping kids fight colds and giving vaccinations — and those things are important, to be sure. But my parents are engineers and I guess I like to find out more about how people work. Once I was exposed to pediatric psychiatry, I knew that’s how I wanted to spend my life. I like the face-to-face time with the kids. And I like to think that I can improve and lengthen life for some very troubled patients and their families.”

Richard Imirowicz, M.D., ’92, now serves as a physician, child psychiatrist, and assistant medical director for the John L. Gildner Regional Institute for Children and Adolescents (JLG-RICA), a community-based, public residential, clinical, and educational facility serving children and adolescents with severe emotional disabilities. JLG-RICA is an interagency program operated by the State of Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and Montgomery County Public Schools.

Dr. Imirowicz is part of a multidisciplinary team that counsels fourth to 12th-grade students who are not part of the mainstream classroom. His patients suffer from severe AD/HD, post-traumatic stress disorders, Asperger syndrome, bipolar disorders, schizophrenia and psychotic episodes. His program allows for 100 day-students and 80 residential students, who may require more aggressive mental-health treatment.

“The kids really progress here. We have lots of resources; our maximum class size is nine kids and we have two teachers per class. The program is pretty intensive, but we are able to mainstream some kids and get help for the entire family. We are filling a very important need,” he said.

Dr. Imirowicz recalls his psychiatry training at Detroit Receiving Hospital, which helped him learn many practical skills and life lessons. “In ways, you feel helpless — mostly when you are only providing temporary treatment like getting the intoxicated person sober for a day or fixing a small problem that’s part of a bigger chronic illness. But you also learn that there is much to be done; that psychiatric conditions are not a patient’s fault; that rape victims need to be treated with special care; and that people with mental disorders can lead functional, independent lives in many cases.”

Not all physicians are cut out for this work, Dr. Imirowicz admits. We need 50 percent more specialists nationwide, he said. It’s intense work that requires intense training. He went to Yale for residencies in general psychiatry and child psychiatry, and says he uses both sets of training, since he spends lots of time counseling parents of the school-age children, who may have the same familial disorders.

Now that he’s the parent of 3-year-old Parker, Dr. Imirowicz says he is more motivated and empathetic to parents than ever. “Sometimes it’s exhausting getting kids the help they need, but we have to keep our kids well and we have to protect them, no matter what it takes.”

Dr. Imirowicz and his family live in Chevy Chase, Md., although he still visits the Detroit area regularly to see his parents and siblings.

Historical Washington club hosts distinguished WSU alums

The Cosmos Club in Washington D.C. is a famous and prestigious social club that has hosted intellectual meetings of the country’s major scientific, literary and art societies since the 1800s. It is credited with the establishment of the National Geographic Society, and in August 1940, was the site of discussions that laid the foundation for the Anglo-American radar partnership that was instrumental in winning World War II. Although it didn’t make historical news, on May 8, 2006, the club hosted alumni from the Wayne State University School of Medicine and WSU attendees of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) annual clinical session for a fruitful meeting of the minds and social discourse.

Ann Lewicki, M.D., was at the reception, and recalls how far women in medicine have come since she graduated from medical school in 1939. An early equal-rights advocate, Dr. Lewicki was appointed the woman liaison officer of the Association of University Radiologists in 1979, where she quickly discovered and endorsed the Association of American Medical College’s Women in Medicine Program.

How did women physicians fare at that time? “They had arrived and were represented, more so in some specialties than in others, but certainly not many at the top of any field, and not many as equal partners in practice settings,” she said. Through hard work, that situation is changing. In fact at least a dozen women deans now lead medical schools in the United States and women physicians are important leaders, contributors and scholars.

Dr. Lewicki is happy to see her alma mater and other schools addressing the many special needs of women in medicine. She is now settled in the radiology department at Georgetown University and doesn’t work too far from the Cosmos Club, a historical building that celebrates advancement and growth, much like the WSU reception did.”

Dr. John Malone, Jr., who hosted the event said, “ACOG’s national meeting agenda is similar to that of WSU’s Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. With discussions of hot topics like genomics, stem cells, cloning, and simulation training, we are happy to see that WSU alumni are shaping the field across the country, and WSU students are actively learning and advancing that field.”

Watch for alumni events in your region!
If second-hand cigarette smoke is a recognized health hazard, imagine the downwind cancer-causing effects of nuclear power plants and radiation leaks. “Why aren’t we up in arms, marching in the streets, yelling at Congress and the nation’s health agencies?” asked Janette Sherman, M. D., ’64. “What’s wrong with us? Why aren’t we outraged? Why are we accepting this cancer epidemic as something natural?”

Dr. Sherman’s book, “Life’s Delicate Balance: Causes and Prevention of Breast Cancer,” is a wake-up call to health care professionals and the public. A specialist in internal medicine and toxicology who has examined some 8,000 worker patients over 25 years, Dr. Sherman believes the root cause of cancer is in carcinogens: chemicals, including pesticides, endocrine disrupters, and nuclear radiation that are contaminating the environment.

Rose Marie Williams, president of the Cancer Awareness Coalition, said “Finally, scientific answers telling us what does cause cancer. And it’s not all in our genes!”

According to Dr. Sherman, there are serious consequences of these exposures. “Of special note is the fact of persistent chemicals that will be a source of exposure long after their use – in water bodies where they have been deposited, in dust that blows in the wind, and in human fat tissue where they are stored until an event such as weight loss releases the chemicals back into the system,” she argues. She notes that approximately 5 to 10 percent of breast cancers are accounted for by genetics, but the other 90 percent are generally unexamined.

In strongly crafted editorials regarding power plants and local public health issues from Brooklyn to Pennsylvania to India to Iraq, Dr. Sherman doesn’t mince words. “How much more asbestos, PCBs, solvents, nuclear wastes, and power plant emissions will we tolerate before we do something? Clearly governmental agencies are failing to protect the health of the public. How did we allow cancer to become the No. 1 killer without noticing it?”

Dr. Sherman acknowledges that there are natural sources of radiation from the earth and outer space. What is important is the difference between natural radiation and that generated by nuclear power plants. “Every plant, in the course of operation, continually gives off some 200+ radioactive elements. Some of these have short half-lives, some long; they emit beta, gamma and alpha radiation of varying energies. They are taken up by living plants, animals and humans and concentrate in various organs in the body,” she said. “There are safer, less costly ways to generate electricity. These include solar, wind, natural gas, and hydroelectric power. And conservation is important. Some 15 to 20 percent of U.S. electrical power comes from nuclear plants. It is very likely that if the public understood the contribution of nuclear power to cancer in children and adults, and fetal and neonatal loss, that most citizens would be more than willing to cut their use of electrical power by 20 percent to prevent the illnesses and losses that so many are currently bearing.”

Dr. Sherman earned an undergraduate degree in biology and chemistry from Western Michigan University and a medical degree from WSU. She has worked in radiation and biologic research at the University of California nuclear facility and at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory at Hunter’s Point in San Francisco. From 1976-1982, she served on the advisory board for the EPA Toxic Substances Control Act. She has been an advisor to the National Cancer Institute on breast cancer and to the EPA on pesticides. Currently, she is adjunct professor in the Department of Environmental Sciences at Western Michigan University and research associate and lecturer with the Radiation and Public Health Project. She has published more than 70 scientific articles and several popular books about chemical exposure and disease.

Dr. Sherman was recently honored with a National Research Center for Women & Families Mother’s Day Foremothers’ Award for her advocacy for environmental health. More information on her and her book can be found at: www.janettesherman.com.

Alumna expresses outrage at health hazards from chemicals and nuclear radiation

“How much more asbestos, PCBs, solvents, nuclear wastes, and power plant emissions will we tolerate before we do something? Clearly governmental agencies are failing to protect the health of the public. How did we allow cancer to become the No. 1 killer without noticing it?”

Dr. Sherman, outraged by the careless use of toxic agents, visits with Dr. John Malone at a recent WSU alumni event in Washington.
A summer job at a psychiatric facility inspired John Newcomer, M.D., to delve into the neurosciences and pursue a career that would help individuals with mental health problems.

"I had taken a summer job at a psychiatric facility, and I saw a person who came in acutely psychotic," he said. "After about two or three days of antipsychotic therapy, however, she was much better. She wasn't completely healed by any means, but she was able to engage in rational and meaningful conversations with her family again. I was struck by the dramatic changes that must have been occurring in her brain."

Dr. Newcomer completed an undergraduate degree at Brown University, returned to his hometown of Detroit to complete his medical degree at Wayne State University in 1985. He recalls Detroit's Lafayette Clinic, where he met expert National Institutes of Health-funded researchers and developed an interest in neuroendocrinology. "I was intrigued by the tremendous amount of uncharted territory in neuroscience," he said. He went on to pursue residency training in psychiatry and a research fellowship at Stanford University.

He is now a professor of psychiatry, psychology and medicine at Washington University in St. Louis. His major area of research is the metabolic effects of antipsychotic drugs in people with schizophrenia. Dr. Newcomer lived in St. Louis briefly as a child, while his father, an FBI agent, was stationed in St. Louis. "I remember seeing the arch halfway constructed," he recalls. "I have a vivid image of that in my mind."

When he returned to St. Louis in 1990 to continue his own career, the Gateway Arch was long complete.

While starting a research unit, he continued studies of glucocorticoid effects on memory that he began at Stanford, and he became interested in the effects of insulin and glucose on memory. Through his investigations, he encountered disease- and treatment-related disturbances in glucose metabolism.

"It turns out that patients with major mental disorders have elevated metabolic risk," he explained. "Psychiatric patients have increased morbidity and mortality in comparison to the general population from conditions like cardiovascular disease and complications associated with diabetes."

People with certain psychiatric diseases are at risk for obesity, high cholesterol or hypertension, certain psychiatric drugs can contribute to weight gain and insulin resistance. Those same drugs are also linked to an increased risk of a problem with blood lipid levels called dyslipidemia, and diabetes.

With funding from the National Institute of Mental Health, Dr. Newcomer is studying the metabolic effects of antipsychotic drugs in people with schizophrenia and he’s launching a similar study in children treated with antipsychotic medicines. As medical director of the Center for Clinical Studies at Washington University, Dr. Newcomer and his colleagues conduct industry-initiated and investigator-initiated studies to find drugs that treat symptoms with fewer side effects.

In addition to his university work, Dr. Newcomer is involved in advocacy and policy issues. Since 1997, he’s been chairman of the Drug Utilization Review Board for Missouri Medicaid, trying to make the best prescription drugs available to Missouri’s Medicaid patients at the best prices the state can negotiate. Dr. Newcomer points out that the top three drugs, in terms of Medicaid dollars spent per month, are antipsychotic medications.

"It’s interesting because we know that some of these drugs are linked to risk for high cholesterol and diabetes," he said.

"Those problems are expensive to treat, too. Our board is very interested in strategies to reduce medical risk and cost in people with psychiatric symptoms, while also preserving access to all the psychiatric medications needed for treatment of the severe mental disorders found in our Medicaid population. These complex problems lead to a lot of concerns and some complex dynamics involving the legislature, the pharmaceutical companies, the governor’s office, physicians and patient advocacy groups."

Dr. Newcomer enjoys cooking and traveling with his wife, Barbara Freedman, a psychotherapist, and his two children.

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– Dr. John Newcomer, M.D.
1976
Steven Braff, M.D., has been appointed chair of the Department of Radiology at the University of Vermont College of Medicine and physician leader of radiology at Fletcher Allen Health Care. He was a founding board member of the Clinical MRI Society, a national society with more than 1,000 physician members. He and his wife, Martha, reside in Stowe, Vt. The Braffs have two children: Rebecca Braff Maxwell, who has a Ph.D. in engineering from MIT, and Sam, who is a fourth-year medical student at the University of Vermont College of Medicine.

(Pictured) Steven Braff, M.D.

1977
Rosalind Griffin, M.D., was inducted into the American College of Psychiatrists at the annual meeting in Puerto Rico in February.

William O’Neill, M.D., the longtime director of the Division of Cardiovascular Disease at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, is leaving Beaumont Hospital to become executive dean of clinical affairs at the University of Miami’s Miller School of Medicine. Besides overseeing the medical school’s patient care divisions, he will be in charge of a 144-bed hospital that the university plans to open in four years.

(Pictured) William O’Neill, M.D.

1978
Mary Ann Bauman, M.D., is a resident medical expert on KWTV NEWS9 in Oklahoma City, Okla., and medical director for women’s health and community relations for Integris Health. Dr. Bauman has written a book, “Fight Fatigue: Six Simple Steps to Maximize Your Energy,” which has been released by Tate Publishing.

1987
James D. Grant, M.D., of Bloomfield Hills, Mich., was elected to the Michigan delegation of the American Medical Association.

1993
Partha S. Nandi, M.D., of Rochester Hills, was elected to the Michigan delegation of the American Medical Association.

1994
Barbara Hanna, M.D., is currently practicing OB/GYN in her private practice, Women’s Center/Health Care Physicians, PLLC, in Lincoln Park, Mich. Dr. Hannah has also worked as a medical missionary and has traveled to both South Africa and Jamaica and was honored with the Grace A. Cubb Missionary Award for outstanding missionary work.

1995
Leland Babitch, M.D., and Cheryl Carpenter (WSU Law, ’95) are happy to announce the birth of their second son, Dylan Carter Babitch, on January 20, 2006. Their oldest son, Bradley, born on January 14, 2005, is coping with the new competition.

1999
Elizabeth Zide, M.D., was married on March 27, 2004, to Vincent Hosfield. The couple had their first child, Serena Lily Hosfield, on November 13, 2005. Dr. Zide became board certified in emergency medicine in June 2004.

2000
Shyam Bhakta, M.D., completed fellowship training in cardiovascular disease at Case Western Reserve University/University Hospitals of Cleveland in Ohio. He is pursuing advanced training in interventional cardiology at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in Denver.

2005
Therese Franco, M.D., is completing her first year in the primary care internal medicine residency at the University of Connecticut.

BOV member honored by Women of Wayne

Jan Bertsch, a School of Medicine Board of Visitors member and WSU alumna from the business school (’79), received a special recognition award from the Women of Wayne, WSU’s women’s alumni association.

Bertsch was one of five WSU alumnae listed in the Automotive News list of 100 leading women in the North American auto industry for 2005. She serves as Vice President and CIO, Chrysler Group and Mercedes-Benz Sales.

Jan Bertsch celebrates professional achievement in the company of her daughter, Amanda.
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